

Omurano language

Omurano is an unclassified language from Peru. It is also known as Humurana, Roamaina, Numurana, Umurano, and Mayna. The language was presumed to have become extinct by 1958,^[3] but in 2011 a rememberer was found who knew some 20 words in Omurano; he claimed that there were still people who could speak it.

It was spoken near the Urituyacu River (a tributary of the Marañón River),^[4] or on the Nucuray River according to Loukotka (1968).^[5]

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Omurano	
	Mayna
Native to	Peru
Ethnicity	Maina
Native speakers	a few speakers or rememberers (2011) ^[1]
Language family	unclassified (Saparo–Yawan?)
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	omu
Glottolog	omur1241 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/omur1241) ^[2]

Classification

Tovar (1961) linked Omurano to Taushiro (and later Taushiro with Kandoshi); Kaufman (1994) finds the links reasonable, and in 2007 he classified Omurano and Taushiro (but not Kandoshi) as Saparo–Yawan languages.

Maynas, once mistaken for a synonym, is a separate language.

Despite there being previous proposals linking Omurano with Zaparoan, de Carvalho (2013) finds no evidence that Omurano is related to Zaparoan.^[4]

Language contact

Jolkesky (2016) notes that there are lexical similarities with the Urarina, Arawak, Zaparo, and Leko language families due to contact.^[6]

Vocabulary

A word list by Tessmann (1930) is the primary source for Omurano lexical data.^[7]

Loukotka (1968) lists the following basic vocabulary items.^[5]

gloss	Omurana
one	nadzóra
two	dzo?óra
head	na-neyalok
eye	an-atn
woman	mparáwan
fire	íno
sun	héna
star	dzuñ
maize	aíchia
house	ána
white	chalama

See also

- [Maina Indians](#)
- [Extinct languages of the Marañón River basin](#)
- [Classification schemes for indigenous languages of the Americas](#)

Further reading

- O'Hagan, Zachary J. (2011). *Omurano field notes*. (Manuscript).

References

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4. de Carvalho. 2013. On Záparoan as a valid genetic unity: Preliminary correspondences and the status of Omurano. *Revista Brasileira de Linguística Antropológica* 5: 91-116.
5. Loukotka, Čestmír (1968). *Classification of South American Indian languages* (<https://archive.org/details/classificationof0007louk>). Los Angeles: UCLA Latin American Center.
6. Jolkesky, Marcelo Pinho de Valhery (2016). *Estudo arqueo-ecolinguístico das terras tropicais sul-americanas* (<http://www.etnolinguistica.org/tese:jolkesky-2016-arqueoecolinguistica>) (Ph.D. dissertation) (2 ed.). Brasília: University of Brasília.
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